

**Remarks**

The Office Action dated November 5, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment is made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 16, 17, 37, and 40 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 16, 17, 37, and 40 are subject to a restriction/election requirement.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement imposed under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is respectfully requested.

A restriction to either Group I, consisting of Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 40 drawn to a polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 6, Group II, consisting of Claim 9 drawn to an antisense sequence that hybridizes to SEQ. ID NO.: 6, Group III, consisting of Claims 16, 17, and 37 drawn to a vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 1, was imposed. In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 40.

Applicants have amended Claims 9, 16, and 37 to recite "an isolated nucleic acid molecule in accordance with Claim 1". Further, Applicants submit that SEQ. ID NO.: 1 is a subset of SEQ. ID NO.: 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to search Claims 9, 16, 17, and 37 along with the claims of Group I.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request examination of Claims 9, 16, 17, and 37 along with the examination of elected Group I.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael J.A. Leinauer  
Registration No. 55,795  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070